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NEW OFFICERS TAKE OVER AT SCAG'S 2003 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Brea Mayor Bev Perry Installed as New President, with Orange County Supervisor Chuck Smith, Temecula City Councilman Ron Roberts Taking Over as First, Second Vice Presidents. Inland Credit Union Leader John Sharp Receives Regional Citizen Award.

LOS ANGELES – At its 2003 General Assembly, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) announced the selection of new officers to lead the agency during the 2003-04 Session. Brea Mayor Bev Perry was formally installed as SCAG's new president, with Orange County Supervisor Chuck Smith being selected as first vice president and Temecula City Councilman Ron Roberts as second vice president. Each officer will serve in his or her position until May 2004. The annual meeting was also highlighted by the ceremony recognizing the important regional accomplishments of Larry Sharp, president and CEO of the Arrowhead Credit Union.

Mayor Perry has long been an active leader on the SCAG Regional Council and is serving her third term on the Brea City Council since her election in 1992. She previously served as mayor in 1995 and 2000. In addition to her work for SCAG, Mayor Perry has demonstrated regional leadership in other areas, including service on the Orange County Council of Governments; the Four Corners Transportation Policy Group; Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA); Local Government Commission; Assembly Speaker's Commission on Regionalism; and Urban Land Institute's Smart Growth Initiative State Coordinating Committee. Mayor Perry also chairs SCAG's Growth Visioning Subcommittee, the elected panel charged with overseeing Southern California Compass, the agency's innovative new visioning program intended to establish a new framework for making decisions regarding how the region will accommodate new population growth in the coming decades. She assumes the position of president at a pivotal time for the regional agency. In addition to the Southern California Compass initiative, SCAG will release this fall the draft 2004 Regional Transportation Plan, a comprehensive long-range blueprint that will include billions of dollars in transportation investments and improvements.

In addition to his service at SCAG, Supervisor Chuck Smith has been a leader on such regional bodies as the OCTA Board (previously as chair); the Southern California Regional Rail Authority; the Southern California Regional Railroad Authority; the Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission; the Regional Transportation Agencies Coalition; and the Urban Counties Caucus. Prior to his election as county supervisor in 1996, Smith served for 10 years on the Westminster City Council, where he also served as president of the Orange County League of Cities.

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Councilman Roberts was first elected to the Temecula City Council in 1992, including three separate stints as mayor in 1994, 1998 and 2002. He has held positions on numerous boards and commissions including the Riverside County Transportation Commission; Western Riverside Council of Governments (past chairman); Southern California Regional Railroad Authority; League of California Cities' Riverside Division Executive Committee; and National League of Cities' Transportation and Communications Committee. For SCAG, he has previously served as chair of the agency's Transportation and Communications Committee and Truck Lanes Task Force.

The General Assembly also marked the final meeting administered by SCAG's 2002-03 officers, with Los Angeles City Councilman Hal Bernson presiding over the meeting as outgoing agency president. Bernson has been a long-time regional leader not only with SCAG, but also through service on such boards as the Southern California Regional Rail Authority; the Metropolitan Transportation Authority; the South Coast Air Quality Management District; and the Intercity Rail Authority. After 24 years of public service as a local and regional leader, Bernson will be stepping down from the Los Angeles City Council this July.

In addition to the selection of new officers, the General Assembly was marked by the presentation of the Donald G. Hagman Award to Larry Sharp, acknowledging his many accomplishments as an active regional citizen. As the president and CEO of Arrowhead Credit Union (ACU), Sharp has worked hard to strengthen the credit union movement by providing financial and in-kind resources to others within the credit union community and by advocating for credit unions at all government levels and other public forums. Sharp has also shown his commitment to education by working with California State University, San Bernardino to establish the university's first off-site MBA program for professionals. He also established the Arrowhead Foundation in 1999 to help local high school students achieve their college dreams, providing more than \$75,000 in scholarships to 40 students since its founding. In addition, Sharp established an innovative computer loan program through ACU for low-income families whose children qualify for the school lunch program. Under Mr. Sharp's leadership, ACU has become an integral partner in a myriad of community programs and services that have made Southern California a more livable, desirable place for numerous residents and businesses.

Throughout the past three decades, SCAG has evolved into the nation's largest regional planning organization, functioning as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for six counties: Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside and Ventura. The Southern California region encompasses a population exceeding 16 million persons in an area of more than 38,000 square miles. SCAG is mandated by the federal government to research and develop plans for transportation, growth management, hazardous waste management, and air quality. For more information about the work of the Southern California Association of Governments, please visit www.scag.ca.gov.